13

Brussels, 30 July

Drouin takes the first prize!

Drouin is first everywhere!

Mother wept with joy when I read her his triumphant letter. I am happy. At the hotel this evening I wanted to shout it out to everyone. I am proud of Drouin, and his friendship is one of the most precious things to me. I am happy because of him and I need to write it down: My dear Drouin, I am proud of you.

This same evening I learn of the death of Emile A. He committed suicide; I am sure of it.

I *August*

Marcel Drouin has the lighest record on the examinations for Normale.[4]

Brussels

Adam and Eve by H. Van Eyclc.

Scenes of the Inquisition by Goya, and *Portrait of a Girl*

The Goldsmith's Family by Govaert Flinck.

These are the three that taught me something. There are others whom I admired more, perhaps, but I got nothing new out of them for myself. These three had a personal lesson for me. I am noting down a few reasons.

Flinck. Disagreeable painting. When we say: "He has character," there is always a touch of spitefulness; because to assert himself an artist is always obliged to break things. Flinck has character. Later he worked to please and was afraid of himself.

Unhealthy faces; hideousness and larvae; both the artist and the subjects assert themselves forcibly. Rheumy eyes, without lashes (very noticeable, this last touch) and red. Gaudy and willful colors (the child's blue dress). Denuded faces, but excellent and powerful relationships between the hair and the features.

Hubert Van Eyck. Girls turn away guffawing and traveling salesmen nudge one another as they pass in front of the

Adam and Eve. It makes an impression of powerful indecency—first because of the realism that dares to paint everything; second, the impression of types that were never intended to be naked. A shameful nakedness, and aware of its shame; ugly nakedness aware of the cold. Adam after the Fall: "and they saw that they were naked/* Whether or not Van Eyck meant to put

[4] The Ecole Normale Superieure for college and university professors. Difficult competitive examinations admit students to the school, after exhaustive special preparation, as holders of the highest government scholarships.